

Union joins Push for Change

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Joe Roberts is shown in this file photo in St. Catharines Nov. 1, during his walk across Canada to raise funds and awareness of youth homelessness. Roberts is expected to be in Sarnia and Petrolia Saturday, and speak Monday at Lambton College. File photo/St. Catharines Standard/Postmedia Network

Members of UA Local 663 plan to be out in force Saturday to help escort homelessness activist Joe Roberts as he walks from Petrolia to Sarnia.

Bob Sauve, business agent with the Sarnia-based plumbers and pipefitters local, said they've arranged for buses to carry approximately 100 members to Petrolia's town hall in the morning to join Roberts as he pushes his shopping cart to Sarnia, as part of a 9,000-kilometres, 517-day trek across Canada to raise awareness and funds to end youth homelessness.

"We're going to have an OPP escort right from there" to the union hall on Confederation Street in Sarnia, Sauve said.

The walk is scheduled to begin at 7 a.m. in Petrolia, and is expected to reach Sarnia around noon.

"I have a cart that I'm going to be pushing with him," Sauve said.

The plumbers and pipefitters union has been supporting Roberts on his cross-Canada walk, known as the Push for Change.

Members of the Sarnia Legionnaires hockey team are expected to help greet Roberts and his supporters when they arrive at the hall.

Sauve said they also plan to involve Roberts in dropping off toy donations for the Salvation Army Christmas hamper project.

“And then, we're going to come back to the hall for some food and drinks,” Sauve said.

After that, Roberts will be driven back to Petrolia to take part in its Christmas parade at 2 p.m., followed by an event at the Petrolia Library.

On Monday, he's scheduled to speak at Lambton College.

Roberts, who was once homeless, formed Push for Change and began his walk in Newfoundland in May. It's scheduled to end next September in Vancouver.